



H1N1 Partner and School Briefing

Date: February 24, 2010
To: All Rhode Islanders
From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH
Re: Information on H1N1 and school-based vaccination clinics in Rhode Island

Local Influenza Activity Level: Local¹; H1N1 predominant circulating strain

Rhode Island²: 369 hospitalized cases, 10 deaths

Sentinel Surveillance (% of visits due to influenza-like illness): Rhode Island: 0.75%³, New England Region: 0.70%, Nation: 1.97%

H1N1 Information Line to be discontinued

In early March the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) will no longer field calls to its H1N1 Information Line (401-222-8022). An automated message will direct callers to the main Information Line (401-222-5960). The 8022 extension is HEALTH's designated Emergency Information Line, used only to accommodate high call volume during emergency events.

Weekly briefings to be discontinued

HEALTH will now issue provider and partner briefings on an as-needed basis only. HEALTH will return to issuing briefings on a weekly basis if flu activity and demand for information increases. For the most up-to-date information on H1N1, see our website (www.health.ri.gov).

Remaining free public vaccination clinic

One remaining free public H1N1 vaccination clinic for adults 18 years of age and older is scheduled for Saturday, February 27 at East Greenwich High School (300 Avenger Dr, East Greenwich) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check the Flu Shot Finder on HEALTH's homepage (www.health.ri.gov) for a list of other public clinics.

School-aged children may be vaccinated by pediatricians and family physicians

With the completion of HEALTH's school-based H1N1 flu vaccination program, school-aged children can now receive first and second doses of H1N1 flu vaccine from their pediatricians and family physicians.

Resources

- HEALTH at <http://www.health.ri.gov>;
- Archived partner briefings and regular news updates: <http://www.health.ri.gov/news/flu/>
- HEALTH Information Line (M-F 8:30am- 4:30pm) 401-222-5960
- H1N1 email address h1n1@health.ri.gov
- <http://www.flu.gov>

¹ Rhode Island reported sporadic activity for the week of February 14 to 20, 2010. For details see <http://www.health.ri.gov/flu/about/surveillance/>.

² Confirmed and probable H1N1 hospitalizations and deaths since September 1, 2009

³ Influenza-like illness activity reported by 23 sentinel surveillance sites from February 7 to 13, 2010